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SOUTH VIETNAM

XUAN SON BATTLE

A Position of U.S. First Air Cavalry Division Overrun in Record Time by the L.A.F.

2 U.S. Battalions and 1 Engineers' Platoon Wiped Out, 11 105- and 155-mm Cannons Destroyed in 13 Minutes

XUAN SON is located 22km southwest of Bong Son town. The 198 - metre - high Xuan Son hill lies close to the foot of Go Cong mountain. The hill stands alone and measures about 500m by each side. On the hill is only elephant grass. To the northeast of it is Go Cong mountain and in the three other directions there are the Luong and Kim Son rivers. One of the hillsides sloped off down to a river bank. There lay the field encampment of two battalions of the 2nd Air Mobile Cavalry Brigade freshly helilifted from the High Plateaux. Their task was to conduct "search and destroy" operations to defend the outer perimetre for the puppet and Pak Jung Hi mercenaries to carry out "pacification" sweeps along Highway I from Bong Son southward to Phu Cat district.

This brigade was one of the two air mobile cavalry brigades which had been sent from Binh Dinh to Pleiku in November 1966 to rescue the American troops who were getting battered along Sa Thay river. On December 17, 1966 the L.A.F. wiped out another battalion and two companies composed of more than 700 G.I.'s of the First Air Mobile Cavalry Division during an ambush at Loc Giang about 10km east of Kim Son valley. The 2nd Cavalry Brigade was again flown from the Western High Plateaux to Kim Son valley and stationed on Xuan Son Hill.

The U.S commanders disposed their forces on the hill in a circular defensive line which, added to the favourable terrain bristling with many natural obstacles, made the access difficult for the L.A.F. They posted their infantry on the outer perimetre and their artillery and C.P. in the centre of the hill. To the southwest was the C.P. of the artillery battalion composed of 2 gun batteries with a total of eleven 105mm and 155mm cannons planted in the north. The C.P. of the infantry battalion was in the east. In the northwest, outside the infantry positions and close to the Luong river bank was a helicopter landing ground. The fortifications and sandbagged shelters were constructed in the pattern of a temporary field encampment.

The Xuan Son position moreover received direct support from two artillery positions in Tan Thanh and Kim Son, respectively four and six kilometres away.

In such a vantage position protected on all sides by mountains and rivers, the U.S. commanders thought they were immune from any adverse surprise attack.

However, in a short while after the American troops had been helilifted to Xuan Son, all preparations of the L.A.F. were completed and on December 26 night they left their regroupment base for Xuan Son.

Every Liberation fighter was stirred by the same iron determination to wipe out the aggressors although they knew that the enemy was encamped in a well-defended position. At 0. 19 hour on Dec. 27 the shock units already came close to the outer defence lines of the enemy and gradually set up an invisible noose. After the commanders had inspected all the units for the last time, from the C.P. installed right behind the shock forces came the order for attack. It was 1 a.m.

It was pitch dark and the rain beat an incessant staccato on the tree foliage. Suddenly there came the thunderous roar of cannons and the flare-up of shell explosions illuminated a whole region around Xuan Son hill. Volley after volley of whizzing cannon shells burst on the camp of the aggressors.

A sea of fire suddenly descended upon the American troops huddled in their tents. No reaction was possible. Many units were cut to pieces right in the first boom of cannons. Others ducked low to avoid the torrents of fire. The first shells hit the C.P. of the infantry and artillery battalions in the centre: at the third minute of the shelling, they were completely paralysed. The radio transmitter was blown up before it could call for help. The U.S. commanders were killed in their prefabricated concrete foxholes before they could give any order. Many U.S. artillerymen lay writhing right under their cannons and were quickly charred by the flaming tents.

Immediately after the guns ceased roaring, the shock units of the L.A.F. made their appearance, firing their submachine guns and hurling grenades at the enemy troops who were scrumming. Then it was the job of the bayonet fighters to finish off the remnants. Like three sharp knives, the three prongs of

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THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WILL GIVE A FITTING ANSWER TO THE U.S. WAR OF AGGRESSION

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Tortuous Quibbles Only Expose U.S. Obduracy

FOLLOWING Johnson's press conference held just one week earlier, at his own on last February 9 and 10, Dean Rusk expounded U.S. viewpoint on the Vietnamese problem. After making lengthy and circuitous protestations of U.S. "peace good will", the American Secretary of State declared: To put an end to the bombing of North Vietnam first of all there must be "de-escalation" by both sides.

The first reaction of the American press was that Rusk persisted in repeating the same unpalatable story (*The New York Post*, Feb. 2, 1967).

Who has "escalated" the war of destruction against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam? As far early as June 1965, the American magazine *National Defense* already admitted that the war ladder had been erected by the United States. The realities over the past two years demonstrate unequivocally that the Americans—and the Americans alone — started the "war escalation" and boosted it one step after another. Let him who initiated "escalation" scale down and kick off the criminal war ladder once and for all. This is an elementary law. The United States which has "escalated" the war must, as a matter of course, scale down and unconditionally put an end to the bombing of our country. The U.S. claim that "de-escalation" should be observed by both sides aims only to continue the criminal "escalation".

By brazenly bombing the Democratic Republic of Vietnam — an independent and sovereign state — the U.S. imperialists have committed a major crime, and violated a most elementary principle of international law, namely: every country must respect others' sovereignty and independence. That our people deliver resolute counterblows is their legitimate right. Like any other people in the

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PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S CONDOLENCES TO AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR NON - VIOLENT ACTION

I am deeply grieved to learn the demise of Abraham J. Muste, an outstanding fighter of the peace and democratic movement in the U.S.A. and the world, a loyal and valiant friend of the Vietnamese people.

I wish to convey to your Committee and through it to the bereaved family my deepest sympathy and condolences.

FOREIGN OPINION:

THE WHOLE WORLD HAS THE RIGHT TO PRESS FOR PUNISHMENT OF YANKEES

Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh's answers to questions put by Australian journalist W. Burchett have aroused lively comments abroad. Excerpts from some commentaries in the foreign press are given below:

Any Bargaining Over the "Stop the Bombing," is a Shame

Johnson essentially ignored the statement by (North Vietnamese) foreign minister Nguyen Duy Trinh on the possibility of talks between the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the U.S.A. after an unconditional end to the bombing (of North Vietnam-Ed.)

In an interview, the U.S. President once again made it clear that the U.S. will try to sell the stop-bombing North Vietnam ware at the highest price it can. Any bombing is in itself barbarous,.. therefore any bargaining over it is a shame.

The North Vietnamese Government has many times endeavoured to achieve peace. It was the first to put forward the famous 4 points as the most reasonable and correct basis for the settlement of the Vietnam problem.

Nguyen Duy Trinh's statement on possible talks between the D.R.V. and the U.S., provided the bombing is stopped unconditionally, is a new indication of good-will on the part of the D.R.V. Government.

That the U.S. does not want to stop the criminal bombing can but be regarded as a refusal to come to the conference table and indicates that it wants further escalation of the war of aggression against Vietnam.

TASS
Feb. 5, 1967.

Hanoi Only Wants the U.S. to Stop the Bombing Unconditionally. One Cannot Expect Milder Terms from a Victim of Aggression

"For months, Washington has been assuring the world of the sincerity of its will to make peace with Hanoi if Hanoi shows sign of good-will. The sign has now been given, the whole world has heard of it, but Washington has responded to it with bellicose statements...

Hanoi only wants the U.S. to stop the bombing of the D. R. V. unconditionally. This is a minimum and sensible demand for one cannot expect milder terms from a victim of aggression for talks with his aggressor (Feb. 3, 1967).

President Johnson's effort not to show any sign of readiness for talks on the Vietnam problem proves that Washington wants to force the Vietnamese people to accept U.S. terms. But realities indicate that the over 400,000 strong American force in South Vietnam has been unable to break the heroic resistance of the Vietnamese people, and that the U.S. can in no way force these people to come round.

Tribyna Ludu
(Poland).
(Feb. 6, 1967)

The War Criminals in the White House Can Hardly Cover Up Their Aggressive War Escalation

Now the U.S. must take a clear-cut stand. Its assertion that the D.R.V. is not ready for talks and negotiations is in fact a crude lie just as Johnson's recent unsuccessful attempt to deny the massacre of North Vietnamese civilians. In face of growing world-wide protest, the war criminals in the White House, despite their demagogic peace offensive, can hardly cover up their aggressive war escalation.

We consider the interview (granted by Nguyen Duy Trinh — Ed.) an important contribution of the D.R.V. which will help intensify the political struggle against U.S. imperialist aggressors. In the future, the G.D.R. will also continue its vigorous support to this struggle.

Neue Deutchland,
Feb. 3, 1967

U.S. Attacks On North Vietnam Are Open Violations of International Law

U.S. attacks on North Vietnam are open violations of international law because North Vietnam is an independent and sovereign state and there is no formal state of war between it and the U.S. Why have both U.S. official spokesmen and the U.S. propaganda machine remained silent whereas in the past they used to release many A-bombs known as "peace offensive". So far there has been no sign of good-will on the part of the U.S. Therefore, the entire world has every reason not to believe in the U.S. professions of peace and has the right to support the Vietnamese people in order to press for punishment of the U.S. playing with peace.

Comhuria — Cairo,
Feb. 1, 1967

By Asking the U.S. to Stop Bombing North Vietnam as a Pre-condition, Hanoi Wants to Drive Johnson Into a Corner

By asking the U.S. to stop bombing North Vietnam as a pre-condition, Hanoi wants to drive Johnson into a corner. Washington finds it hard to back up its claim that the North Vietnamese government remains persistingly silent. It is clear that the initiative to start negotiations going is left to the American side, and predictably the responsibility for any break-down will rest with it".

Combat — Paris
Jan. 30, 1967

The U.S. Is Condemned Throughout the World

According to *UPI*, on Feb. 6, 1967, W. Fulbright, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, in a lecture at Stephens College, stated that the U.S. is being condemned by the whole world.

He said:

"Not a single one of our European allies has been willing to send even a token force to Vietnam as a symbolic gesture of support, not even our closest allies...

"In Africa, ... not a single of independent governments of black people gives us even verbal support...

"In Latin America, our war in Vietnam is generally condemned, especially by the educated younger generation, so much so that even those military dictators whose foreign policies are subservient to the U.S. would not dare to send a platoon of soldiers to Vietnam.

"In Asia and the Pacific, only Australia and New Zealand who depend on us for their defence, and our client states — Thailand, South Korea, Formosa and the Philippines — support us in Vietnam, while the very countries... such as Cambodia, Pakistan and Burma completely fail to appreciate our actions in Vietnam".

TORTUOUS QUIBBLES ONLY EXPOSE U.S. OBDURACY

(Continued from page 1)

world cherish independence and freedom, ours will not allow the American aggressors to freely encroach upon their territory, nor tolerate such an encroachment. Demanding that they end their aggression, and stop unconditionally and permanently the bombing of the D.R.V. is the legitimate right of our people and the peace- and justice-loving people of the world to safeguard the sacred rights of a nation. This is not at all a deal in which, from the U.S. aggressors' point of view, "mutual concessions" have to be made. Our demand is that these aggressors, who have heaped monstrous crimes against our people, cease perpetrating new ones. And they persistently ask from us, to whom they owe a blood debt, reciprocal concessions! This is sheer nonsense and utter stubbornness. In dealing with them, our response is none other than resolute resistance to aggression.

Perplexed and frightened by pressure from world and U.S. public opinion, and the latter's demand that they terminate their aggression on Vietnam, the Washington ruling circles are trying their best to explain their position with quibbles. They falsely and perfidiously claim that "secret contacts are going on between the United States and North Vietnam", or that the "continuation of the war as it is does not hinder the search for peace". Their aim is to deceive public opinion by creating the illusion that a political solution can still be found to the Vietnamese problem while the United States is going ahead with its aggression, its bombings and strafings of the D.R.V. But the more cunning and tortuous tricks they use. the further they lay bare their diehard warlike nature. There can be no peace so long as U.S. aggression continues in Vietnam!

U.S. themes remain what they were: "negotiations without preconditions" and "conditional cessation of the bombing". In other words, there is no condition to American aggression in Vietnam whereas the end of American aggression must be conditional — something tantamount to forcing our people to surrender. The U.S. imperialists have thus shown their extremely reactionary aggressive hand.

Early last year, everyone still remembers, when Johnson put forth his fourteen points, he stated: The bombing of North Vietnam may be brought to an end though there does not exist the slightest sign or suggestion from the other side as to what it will do once this step is undertaken.

Now to explain the U.S. president's declaration, Rusk says: the United States is ready to stop the bombings of North Vietnam when we are assured that this measure is responded to rapidly by the other side with a reciprocal "de-escalation".

We deal here with a typical sample of the American bandits' quibbling. Once again, the true substance of the U.S. imperialists peace hoax is laid bare before the world and American peoples.

FOR THE FAMILIES OF AMERICAN PRISONERS

To: Mr. and Mrs W.J. ROBINSON
PO Box 386 Robersonville
North Carolina, U.S.A.

Hi Mom, Hi Dad, and family,

This is yours truly coming to you from the D.R.V. How's everything at home? All well here. I'm just fine and in excellent health. I hope the same for you all. I think about all of you very often.

Hi Bev, I love and miss you, think of you every so much. Bev tell all Hello for me up your way and I send my season greeting to everyone.

To everybody, I wish a happy and cheerful New Year. I hope to see all before too much longer, good lord willing.

So may God Bless and keep each close to him. I send my love and prayers to all. God is with us and will see us through.

Bye for now
BILLY

William Andrew Robinson, aircraftman, Registration No 147827080, 38th Airrescue Squadron, based in Da Nang, captured on Sept. 20, 1965.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH's REPLIES TO POPE PAUL VI

Pope Paul VI recently sent a message to President Ho Chi Minh expressing the wish to see an early peaceful solution to the Vietnam problem.

President Ho Chi Minh sent a reply which reads in full as follows:

I wish to thank Your Holiness for the message of February 8, 1967. In this message Your Holiness expressed the wish to see an early peaceful solution to the Vietnam question.

Our people sincerely love peace in order to build our country in independence and freedom. However, the U.S. imperialists have sent to South Vietnam half a million U.S. and satellite troops and used more than 600,000 puppet troops to wage a war against our people. They have committed monstrous crimes. They have used the most barbarous arms such as napalm, chemical products and toxic gases to massacre our compatriots and burn down our villages, pagodas, churches, hospitals, schools...

Their acts of aggression have grossly violated the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam and seriously menaced peace in Asia and the world. To defend their independence and peace the Vietnamese people are resolutely fighting against the aggressors. They are confident that justice will triumph.

The U.S. imperialists must put an end to their aggression in Vietnam, end unconditionally and definitively the bombing and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, withdraw from South Vietnam all American and satellite troops, recognize the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs. Only in such conditions can real peace be restored in Vietnam.

It is my hope that Your Holiness, in the name of humanity and justice, will use his high influence to urge that the U.S. Government respect the national rights of the Vietnamese people, namely peace, independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity as recognized by the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Vietnam.

VICE PREMIER NGUYEN DUY TRINH ANSWERS INTERVIEW BY JAPANESE TELEVISION TEAM NIHON DENPA NEWS

Question 1: *The United States has been bombing the Democratic Republic of Vietnam for two years, and in its escalation, it has gone so far as to attack Hanoi. Mr. Vice-Premier, what are, in your view, the results achieved by North Vietnam and the consequences for the United States during that period?*

Answer: For two years now, the U.S. imperialists have been bombing the northern part of our country ever more impudently and fiercely in an attempt to extricate themselves from the South Vietnamese quagmire and to force on our people acceptance of their terms.

But they have failed.

The economic and defence potential of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has grown ever more stronger. The people of the North have dealt well deserved counter-blows at the U.S. aggressors, and are extending all out support to the heroic struggle of our southern compatriots.

Under the clearsighted leadership of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, their only genuine representative, the people of South Vietnam have grown stronger and stronger as they fight on, and have repeatedly won big victories on all battlefields; the political struggle of the various strata of the urban population has gained in breath and depth.

All over the world, public opinion is demanding that the United States end its aggression, withdraw its troops from South Vietnam, stop definitively and unconditionally the bombing of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The U.S. imperialists have been landed in utter isolation.

Question 2: *It is still the U.S. policy to intensify and expand the war in Vietnam. What then are the prospects for the current year?*

Answer: In 1967, the U.S. imperialists will intensify their aggressive war in both zones of our country and at the same time keep harping on the so-called "peace negotiation" in an attempt to deceive world opinion and camouflage their crimes. U.S. President Johnson's message early in 1967 has revealed these schemes.

However, the Vietnamese people have not been and will never be cowed by any perfidious trick whatsoever of the aggressors. The peoples of the world will struggle even more strongly against the U.S. unjust war in Vietnam, and support the 4-point stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the 5-point statement of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation.

With the brilliant victories recorded early this year, our compatriots throughout the country will fight still more eagerly, and are more firmly confident than ever in the cause of defending the North, liberating the South and achieving national reunification.

The Vietnamese people will win.

The U.S. aggressors will be defeated.

Question 3: *In your January 28 statement to journalist W. Burchett, you pointed out that: "It is only after the unconditional cessation of U.S. bombing and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam that there could be talks between the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the United States". Does this statement open any prospect in the Vietnam problem?*

Answer: When answering journalist W. Burchett, I have made clear the just stand and the correct attitude of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

If the United States obdurately refuses to listen to reason, it will further lay bare its aggressive features and will be driven to increased isolation. The Vietnamese people will step up their struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation; world public opinion will oppose the U.S. aggressors still more strongly. The new victories of our people and the strong support of the world's peoples will compel the United States to stop the bombing of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and to end its criminal war of aggression in Vietnam.

Question 4: *Mr. Vice-Premier, what have you to say to the peace-loving people of the world including those of Japan and the United States?*

Answer: We are fighting against the U.S. imperialist aggressors for the independence and freedom of our Fatherland, and for peace, national liberation, democracy and social progress in the world. We rely mainly on the strength of our people's unity and struggle, at the same time, we warmly welcome the sympathy and support of our friends all over the five continents.

By unleashing the war of aggression in Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists have not only committed monstrous crimes against our people, but also caused great damage to the United States and the American people. We highly appreciate the struggle of our American friends to demand that the U.S. rulers stop the war in Vietnam. We are convinced that this struggle will develop vigorously.

The Japanese Government, tailing after the U.S. imperialists, is allowing them to use Japan as a base for the war against the Vietnamese people. The Japanese people are opposing this evil deed and demanding that the United States stop its aggression in Vietnam. This is a very valuable assistance to us; this is also in the vital interests of the Japanese people. Our people convey to the fraternal Japanese people their sincere thanks and their best wishes. We wish the Japanese people still greater victories in their struggle for an independent, democratic, peaceful and neutral Japan.

THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE WILL GIVE A FITTING ANSWER TO THE U. S. WAR OF AGGRESSION

Statement of the D. R. V. Foreign Ministry Spokesman (Feb. 15, 1967)

THE order for a 7-day suspension of military attacks issued by the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation on the occasion of the Lunar New Year, and the January 28, 1967 statement of the Foreign Minister of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to journalist W. Burchett have been warmly welcomed and supported by the peace-loving governments and peoples throughout the world. Public opinion demands that the United States respond to the National Front for Liberation's order for a suspension of military attacks, and that it stop definitively and unconditionally the bombing raids and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

In the face of this situation, the U.S. imperialists are greatly embarrassed, yet they prove to be extremely obdurate. Apparently they accepted a 4-day *Tet* truce, however, they actually sought every means to sabotage it: during those four days, U.S., puppet and satellite troops launched many attacks and "sweeps" in South Vietnam, and U. S. planes kept intruding ceaselessly into the air space of North Vietnam. Four U.S. aircraft were shot down over North Vietnam on the eve and on the fourth day of *Tet*, that is a hard fact.

In an attempt to soothe and further side-track public opinion, the United States resorted to the deceitful trick of a short "temporary prolongation of the bombing pause" in North Vietnam "to wait for a response from Hanoi". Obviously that was a U.S. ultimatum insolently requiring the Vietnamese people to accept nogotiations under U.S. terms. But the U.S. aggressors are grossly mistaken! The Vietnamese people will never submit to force. The U.S. imperialists can never cow the Vietnamese people with their bombs!

Hardly had the trick of "temporary prolongation of the bombing pause" lasted two days when U.S. President Johnson announced his decision "to resume full-scale hostilities", thus clearly revealing his scheme to step up the war of aggression in Vietnam and to undertake further escalation in North Vietnam. On the morning of February 14, 1967, U.S. aircraft resumed their barbarous attacks against many places on the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. This is a very serious challenge to the peoples throughout the world. Many governments, politicians and peace-loving people all over the five continents, including broad sections of the American people, have voiced the utmost indignation at the U.S. resumed bombing of North Vietnam.

As the United States wants to step up the war of aggression in Vietnam, the Vietnamese people will certainly give it a fitting answer.

In his message to Pope Paul VI, President HO CHI MINH affirmed that:

"To defend their independence and peace, the Vietnamese people are resolutely fighting against the aggressors. They are confident that justice will triumph. The U.S. imperialists must put an end to their aggression in Vietnam, end unconditionally and definitively the bombing and all other acts of war against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, withdraw from South Vietnam all American and satellite troops, recognize the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs. Only in such conditions can real peace be restored in Vietnam".

The U.S. aggressors are now more isolated than ever. Having not listened to reason, they will unavoidably meet with ignominious defeat.

Letter from HANOI

Hanoi, Tet 1967

SOME kinds of peach-trees yield no fruit at all, which, on the coming of spring and the warmth it carries with it, look like huge bouquets as if to demonstrate that life is endlessly renewed and draws its vigour from the very winter cold.

As Tet — the lunar new year festival — is nearing, peach trees begin blossoming and the gardeners' art is precisely to make the corollas bloom just on the festive days. This year, that of the Goat, *each family in Hanoi has as usual had its peach blossom spray radiant with pink corollas, a source of pleasure for the children, of indefinable delight for the poets and lovers, and of stirring recollections for all those to whom the burden of the years begin to make itself felt.*

On Tet eve, in the cosy atmosphere of a dying winter, and already warmed up by the first spring fragrances, Hanoi people came in numbers, as they do every year, to admire the profuse illumination over the Lake of Redeemed Sword *in the heart of the city. Against the resplendent background of hundreds and hundreds of lampions, stood out the outlines of the Ngoc Son Pagoda and the The Huc foot-bridge smartly spanning the lake. Those lampions looked like sparkling flowers and fruit amidst the leaves of massive trees wreathed with coloured lights. All this beautiful picture was reflected on the shimmering waters of the lake and, in these war days, seemed somewhat unreal.*

True, this year we celebrated Tet the same way as before, lacking neither the traditional banh chung *(a rice pudding), the customary spring flowers, the little gifts, nor the new year wishes, the boisterous joy of children, the quiet smiles of old folks happy to see the flowering of the younger generation. Dressed up in their best clothes, with a relaxed and smiling look and little boys and girls toddling at their sides, Hanoi people milled for hours around the Lake enjoying this traditional spectacle, lost in the trustful and friendly big crowd and in recollections of each and all. Every one of them has paid for this beauty, this family affection, this comradeship, for the delight to feel this renewal of both nature and human life.*

Did the Hanoi population, on this new year's day, forget their southern kindred caught in the storm for over twenty years now, or the sinister shadow of the Seventh Fleet prowling off the Vietnamese coast? Not at all! In the small hours of the next day, everyone came back to his combat position.

Like the peach blossoms, celebrating Tet, Hanoi and the whole of Vietnam relived for a few moments the colourful and flowering life which is theirs as if there existed no American aircraft. This testifies to a vitality of the people capable of ceaseless renewal despite all the trials they have to go through. The Yankees could not prevent our gardeners taking good care of their peach-trees, the Lake of Redeemed Sword *putting on its Tet finery and smiles beaming on all faces. It was certainly the heaviest defeat of the U.S. Air Force. For sure, after the Tet festivities, our gunners will aim more accurately, our factories and schools will do better work, and the rice crop will grow more rapidly. Let the Yankees come, we are waiting resolutely for them.*

Hanoi delegates present New Year's greetings to an air defence unit

During the Tet festival, President Ho Chi Minh visited Ha Tay and Ha Bac provinces.

Photo : *Visit to an agricultural co-operative*

Hanoi Greets A Spring Of Victory

THIS year again Hanoi, the heart of Vietnam, greets a spring of victory.

A look at the flower stalls shows that the Hanoi people are fond of flowers but do not relax their vigilance. In these pretty kiosks scattered here and there one can find scores of kinds of flowers, each with a peculiar charm. A worker chooses a branch of pink peach-blossom for his factory, while a militia girl prefers a bunch of pink dahlias for her guardroom to welcome the new spring. This year sprays of peach blossom and tangerines adorn the trenches of the A.A. gunners around the capital and countless bouquets are seen making their way on bicycles toward the evacuation places of Hanoi citizens.

Despite the American aggressors' bombing and strafing, this place dear to everyone's heart has kept its beauty and pride unmarred. Along Hang Duong, Hang Dao, Hang Ngang, Trang Tien streets, as well as along Nam Bo, Dien Bien Phu avenues, people move up and down in their sunday best. On the eve of the New Year's Day, greetings have already been exchanged for good health, happiness and victory over the Yankee pirates. This jubilation is shared by many a foreigner, too. However, in this festive atmosphere, nobody forgets the crimes of the American aggressors. Gathered in their cosy houses, they all the more sympathize with families of victims of U.S. bombs at Phuc Tan, Phu Xa, *Uy No* and Yen Vien. Many children are no more to explode fire-crackers, wear beautiful clothes and put on new shoes. Many old folks are no more to listen to Uncle Ho's greetings over their crystal sets... Among the flowers this year Nhat Tan peach-blossoms are particularly appreciated, especially those whose vases are made from fragments of American bombs. Well, the Yankee air marauders sow death and destruction, but life continues irrepressible. Suffice it to note that the saleswomen from the state trading stores make it a point of presenting the gunners with peach-blossoms, lilacs or gladioli when they carry their ware to the artillery emplacements... Though embattled, Hanoi is still fragrant with spring. The peasants in the suburbs who have finished transplanting summer rice are busy growing trees. Hundreds of production teams keep on going to the fields. The green cakes on the ancestors' altars are made of the glutinous rice of Thanh Tri, Gia Lam and Tu Liem districts which overfulfilled 5 tons of paddy per hectare last year. Most of the fish, chickens, vegetables and fruit are spared for the front. Since half a month, goods and food stores have been managing to reach their customers in all city quarters, enterprises, offices and battlegrounds.

Girls and boys of Hanoi do not only stroll in their beautiful clothes on these festive days. Thousands and thousands of them greet the New Year by their machines or at the gun emplacements. Back from the beginning of February, the youth in the capital have launched a campaign to "learn from our heroes and try to achieve exploits". Marching in the van, youth in many enterprises volunteer to work on the New Year's Day. That night, those in the Hanoi engineering plant put into operation a new furnace whose productivity is three times as high as the usual one. At the winter-spring weaving-mill most of the workers ask to remain by their machines throughout the holiday; they are prepared to begin the new year "against U.S.-aggression for national salvation" with an unprecedented mettle and zeal to master science and technique.

Keeping our life lines in continuous order, the workers in the communication and transport branch spend their New Year's Day at the steering wheels of their lorries on their long march. The bus, tram and boat services implement the motto: more working hours and more journeys. At the A.A. batteries, the fighters keep up their vigilance to defend our air space.

All this, however, does not mar the jubilation of the Hanoi people. Five days before the New Year's Day, many art troupes already began to go to the army units and factories and roused their audience with spring songs. This year there are no big stages or roving

(Continued page 7)

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE UNIFICATION OF THE SOUTH VIETNAM L.A.F. (February 15, 1961)

A STEELED ARMY, A HEROIC ARMY

Excerpt from Quan Doi Nhan Dan *editorial, Feb. 15, 1967*

OVER the past six years, on the forefront of the fatherland, the South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces have gone through many hardships and difficulties but also achieved glorious victories and heroic exploits. Six years of success due to revolutionary heroism, determination to win, wonderful courage, intelligence and resourcefulness.

The South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces are the staunch revolutionary army of the Vietnamese people. Side by side with them, they are waging the greatest and most valiant liberation war in our country's modern history against American imperialist aggression. From self-defence units, armed propaganda units and scattered guerilla units born in the first days of concerted uprisings, they have grown rapidly in the seething political struggle of millions of people against the cruel U.S.-Diem fascist rule, recorded great achievements in battle and become a steeled, ever victorious revolutionary army.

The South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces spring from the people, fight for the people and are closely related to the people. Their strength lies in the boundless affection of the people for their revolutionary army. Unstintingly giving their labour, their wealth and even their blood, the people encourage their army, tend it, protect it and help it fight the enemy.

Following and promoting the tradition of heroism of our nation and our revolutionary armed forces, guided by a correct political and military line, and steeled by efficient political work, the South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces have set a shining example of absolute loyalty to the Fatherland and the people, of valour and determination to fight and win, of persistent struggle against difficulties and hardships, of repeated victories over more numerous and better equipped enemy forces.

It is precisely owing to this revolutionary nature and this fine tradition that the South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces have brought into full play their revolutionary heroism, captured enemy weapons with their bare hands, fought with extraordinary mettle, and won victory after victory.

Throughout the past six years, together with the South Vietnam people, they have scored repeated successes:

They have foiled the American *special warfare*, beating hollow half a million puppet troops commanded by 30,000 American *advisers*.

They have crushed the U.S. first 'dry season strategic counter-offensive' and rainy season defensive plan; recently, they have scored initial successes over the enemy's second dry season strategic counter-offensive', driving the Yankees, the quislings and the satellites to the wall and frustrating the initial part of the American strategic plan of *limited war*.

By achieving glorious victories over the chieftain of imperialism, the most cruel enemy of mankind, the South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces are worthy of being the vanguard fighters of their Fatherland and of the world's people against Yankee aggression, worthy of being the heroic army of the heroic South of the heroic Vietnamese nation!

Marching under the banner of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation, heir to fine traditions, and benefiting from valuable experiences, and continuing the former nine-year war of resistance against the French colonialists, the Liberation Armed Forces have firmly grasped and creatively applied the line of people's war to the realities of the revolution in South Vietnam. They constitute the hard core of the entire people in the fight against the enemy, and have developed people's war to a degree unprecedented in our history, making valuable contribution to the revolutionary military science of our nation and of the oppressed nations the world over.

The most striking feature of the great people's war in South Vietnam at present is the method of **armed struggle combined with political struggle, of military operations coordinated with political agitation and persuasion work among enemy troops**. This fighting method is applied not only in strategy but also in tactics, for whole campaigns as well as for each battle, against big units as well as against small ones or even individual soldiers. All the three categories of the Liberation Armed Forces develop vigorously and harmoniously on the battlefields on a large scale and devise many fighting ways peculiar to Vietnam and typical of people's war as used against aggressive war, thus rendering the enemy powerless. First of all, this means fighting like a revolutionary army, constantly bringing into play its supremacy in politics and morale to triumph over a better equipped enemy. This means using our strong points against the enemy's weak points, constantly grasping the initiative, carrying out repeated, bold and skilful attacks, and using both rudimentary and modern weapons to destroy the enemy. This means also fighting a big force with a small force and vice-versa, fighting day and night, combining swift concertrated actions with large-scale and continuous ones. This is conducting surprise attacks, frontal attacks, flank-attacks, rear-attacks, deep inroads into enemy dens or close-range fighting, this means launching simultaneous attacks on several fronts, hitting the enemy's communication lines, bases, airfields, warships, setting up guerilla belts around enemy's positions to destroy him piecemeal, fighting him in places of our own choice, annihilating, wearing down and harassing him day and night, fighting him on all theatres of operations, without respite, striking terror into his heart and compelling him to disperse his forces, lose the initiative and suffer setback after setback.

The realities of the war in South Vietnam are daily giving evidence that the Liberation Armed forces, though young and not yet very well equipped, have none the less scored repeated and glorious victories and will certainly defeat the American aggressors thanks to a correct leadership, a fine revolutionary character, the unity of a heroic people, the unmatched strength of people's war with its ingenious fighting methods and the support of socialist North Vietnam as their great rear. The Yankee imperialists have suffered setback after setback not because they lack the sinews of war, weapons, troops but because they are waging a war of aggression, an unjust war. They face a whole heroic nation they go counter to the progressive trend of our era; the morale of their troops is sagging, and their strategy and tactics end in crises and deadlock. Over the past six years, the U.S. aggressors have frenziedly stepped up their military build-up, resorted to all kinds of strategic plans and countless perfidious and cruel manœuvres, but they have not been able to turn the tide. As for the South Vietnam army and people, they grow ever stronger, constantly keep the initiative, and are irresistibly gaining victory. This shows that they have all necessary conditions and are fully capable of defeating over one million American, puppet and satellite troops. South Vietnam will certainly be a grave for the U.S. expeditionary force and all its ignominious lackeys!

A L.A.F. unit going to the front

THE YOUNG WOMAN GUERILLA OF THE PLAIN OF REEDS

TRAN THI GAM was 21 last year. Like other young men and women her age, she had left the paternal roof to participate in the war of resistance against American aggression, for national salvation. After many assignments, she was finally given a gun and allowed to participate directly in the fighting against the enemy.

On October 5, 1966, together with some of her comrades she was on a mission in a village in the Plain of Reeds when it was raided by nearly one thousand enemy troops. At that time, the Plain was flooded, and the enemy took advantage of this to round up and massacre the people. Aircraft skimmed over the water and attacked every boat they spotted. Motor launches raced about, firing at every clump of trees and every bush still emerging above water.

In face of these barbarous actions, Gam and her comrades could not think of only their own safety: they decided to hamper enemy actions so as to give the people time to take refuge.

The forces in presence were truly too unequal: Gam and her friends has but a few guns and scanty ammunition, they had no fortified positions. So they hid themselves in the water, taking full advantage of aquatic vegetation to move about and engage in hit-and-run actions. They took careful aim and pulled the trigger of their guns only when they were sure of hitting their targets. So they brought down an enemy soldier with every bullet. For several hours, the enemy were stopped. Gam's two comrades were killed one after the other, and soon, Gam herself ran out of ammunition.

Seeing that she had stopped firing, the enemy drew closer and opened an intense fire. Gam moved carefully to a scanty clump of trees, took a grenade from her belt and pulled off the safety pin. As the grenade would explode immediately after the primer was set off, she could not throw it. So she shouted to enemy soldiers: "Don't fire. I am a woman. I live here".

Hearing a woman's voice, an enemy boat approached. Soldiers tried to pull her up on board. She resisted with all her strength to attract many more troops. When the favourable moment came, she drew herself up and let go her grenade. It exploded, killing and wounding a large number of enemy soldiers.

Gam was seriously wounded in her chest and face. Blood reddened the water around her. Mustering all her remaining strength, she pulled another grenade from her belt, but her strength failed her as she tried to pull off the safety pin with her teeth. She breathed her last, still holding the grenade in her hand.

With her two comrades, she had killed and wounded dozens of enemy soldiers, among them the platoon commander.

She had matched her deeds with the words she used to say when she was alive: "I am determined to follow Vo Thi Sau * example: to live in greatness and to die in glory".

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* *Vo Thi Sau was a patriotic young girl executed by the French colonialists.*

The Whole World SUPPORT US

SOVIET UNION

The Soviet Union continues to help Vietnam till complete victory

Speaking at the party given by Italian President Saragat in Rome on Jan. 25, 1967, N.V. Podgorny, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, declared :

"The Soviet Union supports the correct political lines of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation concerning the settlement of the Vietnam problem. The prerequisite to solve the Vietnam issue is to stop unconditionally and definitively the U.S. bombings of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

President Podgorny stressed that the Soviet Union had been helping and would continue helping the D.R.V. till the complete triumph of the just cause of the Vietnamese people.

CHINA

700 million Chinese people are resolved to support to the end the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation

Speaking at a party given on Feb. 4 in Peking on the occasion of the National Day of Ceylon, and dealing with the Vietnam question, Vice-Premier Chen Yi pointed out that the U.S. imperialists continued to expand the aggressive war against the Vietnamese people and repeatedly provoked China. He stressed :

"The Chinese people are ready. The 700 million Chinese people are determined to support to the end the Vietnamese people in their struggle against U.S. aggression for national salvation, and are certain that they will smash any plan of the U.S. imperialists to expand their aggressive war."

POLAND

Wladyslaw Gomulka sternly condemns the aggressive war in Vietnam

Addressing a military conference, on Feb. 9, Wladyslaw Gomulka, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers Party, severely condemned the U.S. aggressive war in Vietnam and declared that together with the other socialist countries, Poland was helping and will help the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

G. D. R.

Fine Arts Academy calls on intellectuals to increase assistance to Vietnam's struggle for freedom

At a meeting on Jan. 25, the Fine Arts Academy of the German Democratic Republic called on the intellectuals to increase their help to Vietnam's struggle for freedom. Many academicians spoke at the meeting, voicing solidarity with the fight of the Vietnamese people.

HUNGARY

People's Patriotic Front holds ceremony to offer 18 million forints to Vietnam

In closing the money collecting drive to help the Vietnamese people to build a hospital and a school, the Hungarian People's Patriotic Front on Jan. 30, 1967 held a ceremony to hand a 18-million forint gift to Vietnam.

GUINEA

President Sekou Toure hails the Vietnamese people's just struggle

At a conference of Guinea's ruling Democratic Party, President Sekou Toure, Secretary General of the Party, laid down for the Party the task of loyally serving the people and struggling uncompromisingly against imperialism.

He pointed out that defying U.S. sizable troops strength and huge technical means poured into the war in Vietnam, the Vietnamese people were fighting victoriously and continued recording new victories.

He called on the Democratic Party members to learn from the example of the heroic Vietnamese people.

PERU

The leftist revolutionary movement issues a resolution in support of Vietnam

The plenary session of the Central Committee of the leftist revolutionary movement in Peru has adopted a resolution in support of the Vietnamese people's struggle against the U.S. aggressors for national salvation and other revolutions in Columbia and Venezuela.

The resolution pointed out : The Vietnamese people have raised people's war to a high peak. Vietnam is the center of the struggle between U.S. imperialism and the peoples fighting for national liberation and eventual socialism.

Week of Tri-Continental Solidarity With Vietnam

On the occasion of the Vietnam Day against U.S. aggression (March 19), the Tri-continental Committee for Solidarity with Vietnam called for "Solidarity with Vietnam in the struggle against U.S. imperialism".

The Committee called on the peoples of the three continents and the rest of the world to hold a week of "Tri-Continental Solidarity with Vietnam" from March 13 to 19, 1967.

News from CAMBODIA

Cambodian National Assembly and Royal Council Condemn Aggressive Acts of U.S. and its Thailand Henchmen Against Cambodia and Vietnam

AT their Feb.8, 1967 extraordinary session, the National Assembly and Royal Council of Cambodia issued a statement energetically denouncing and condemning the Thailand Government, a lackey of the U.S., for its continued aggression against Cambodia and dispatch of Thai mercenaries to South Vietnam to serve as cannon fodder for the U.S.

After protesting against the U.S. imperialists' sending 18 B.52 strategic planes to Thailand and planning to sign with the Thai authorities a treaty to turn Thailand into a military base for aggression against Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos, the statement remarked that this act proved that the Johnson administration worked hand in glove with the Thai authorities and schemed to expand the aggressive war to the whole of Southeast Asia.

The statement urged the Thai reactionary authorities to stop all acts of aggression, respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cambodia, withdraw all mercenary troops and military equipment from South Vietnam and cancel the treaty allowing the U.S to establish strategic air bases in Thailand. The statement also demanded that the U.S. dismantle all its military bases in Thailand.

In the United States:

DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST VIETNAM WAR CONTINUE

— Over One Million Americans Stage a Hunger Strike to Protest Against the Aggressive War in Vietnam.

— 2,400 American Priests, Clergymen and Believers Hand Petitions to McNamara Urging an End to U.S. Bombing of the D.R.V.

ACCORDING to reports from New York, Catholics, Protestants and Jews in the United States on February 11 ended their three day hunger strike in protest against the U.S. aggressive war in Vietnam.

Minister Karl Dudley, representative of the leading committee of the strike made known that over one million Americans in 412 cities of 37 states had taken part in the action.

During these three days, the participants held services during which the believers strongly condemned the aggressive war and the barbarous crimes of the U.S. in Vietnam.

Earlier, on Feb. 1, 2,400 American priests, preachers and believers in 45 states of the U.S.A. wound up a three-day conference to discuss the Vietnam problem and handed petitions to U.S. Defence Secretary McNamara demanding that Johnson stop bombing the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. The conference decided to hold a three-day hunger strike all over the country as from Feb. 1 in protest against the U.S. war in Vietnam.

On the same day, the American clergymen held in Washington cathedral a meeting to protest against Johnson's policy in Vietnam.

At the meeting, Senator Wayne Morse pointed out that the U.S. government was author of the inhuman air raids over North Vietnam. He laid bare the Johnson administration's "negotiation without preconditions" demagogic double-talk and said : The U.S. desire to maintain "two Vietnams" is an act of gross interference in the Vietnam internal affairs and a "pre-condition". Who are we to decide the affairs of the Vietnamese people in their place? he asked.

Sen. E. Gruening pointed out that the U.S. was the aggressor in the Vietnam war. He strongly refuted the Johnson administration's absurd claim that Hanoi "is the aggressor". Senator E. Gruening said : We have tortured and killed thousands of Vietnamese people in the name of 'peace'.

After the meeting, representatives of various churches in the U.S. converged on to the White House and the Pentagon and handed in petitions protesting against the aggressive war in Vietnam.

Xuan Son Battle

(Continued from page 1)

shock units quickly wiped out the enemy in three key defence positions and held the battleground under their control. The flags of the N.F.L. fluttered here and there. It was now the 8th minute of the attack.

Meanwhile, the L.A.F. units charged with neutralizing the enemy infantry in the outer perimetre continued to close in and wiped out one group of the enemy after another. The enemy's resistance proved hopeless. A detachment of Battalion X made a thrust into the helicopter strip. The U.S. troops fell back and taking shelter behind sandbagged fortifications fired back with their machineguns But immediately the L.A.F. battalion commander ordered a gunner to silence it with a direct hit. The L.A.F. infantrymen then rushed forward and occupied the helicopter strip, destroyed three craft and engaged in a hand-to-hand combat with the last pocket of resistance of the enemy infantry sheltering nearby. After 5 minutes. all the most stubborn GI's were wiped out. By then the other shock units had also accomplished their tasks.

At 1.13 hours, the L.A.F. had gained complete control of the battleground. The bodies of American troops littered the ground at the feet of L.A.F. shock fighters. The tents continued to burn. In the glow lay the crumpled mass of wrecked cannons and trucks. The acrid smell of blazing petrol filled the damp air.

Thus ended within 13 minutes one of the most successful surprise attacks. Only then did a few L.19 fighters and *dragonships* turn up, dropping flares and firing wantonly because they had long lost all contact with the commanders on the ground.

Not until the L.A.F. had withdrawn after having captured a lot of weapons, did the commanders of the Air Mobile Cavalry Division learn of the disaster. They immediately ordered their pilots to shower bombs on the centre of the hill to destroy any vestige of their bloody defeat, including the dead or wounded G.I.s on the ground.

Next morning, to save face, the commanders of the 1st brigade of *cavalrymen* headquartered in Tan Thanh landed a detachment in Gia Duc and Phu Thuan 10 or 12km northeast of Xuan Son allegedly to "pursue the Viet Cong".

But they found the Viet Cong main force nowhere, instead fell into a battleground prepared by the regional L.A.F. and guerillas. No sooner had they landed from the helicopters and regouped into combat formations than they were fired upon and lost 100 men on the spot. One helicopter was shot down. Many arms were seized including two machineguns. Frightened, the *cavalrymen* rushed back to their choppers and took to flight.

Not counting the enemy losses during this attack, in the 13-minute assault on Xuan Son hill alone, the L.A.F. killed or wounded 600 G.I.s, completely wiped out two battalions and a sapper platoon, destroyed 4 helicopters, eleven 105mm and 155mm cannons, two 81mm mortars, captured more than 50 guns, many radio transmitters and other military equipment.

The Xuan Son victory constituted a record of the L.A.F. tactics of swift attack and quick annihilation of enemy forces. It was also a clear indication of the inevitable failure of the U.S. and puppets' plan of building "enclaves" to carry out their "pacification" program.

THE U.S. AND ITS VALETS SECOND FRONT

THE present pacification for revolutionary development plan of the American aggressors and their puppets in South Vietnam differs in no way from the "pacification" program of Ngo Dinh Diem and the Pentagon to herd the people into "strategic hamlets".

Washington and Saigon attach paramount importance to the "second front" and the war aimed at winning the "people's hearts and minds", which constitute their "strategic objective" in South Vietnam. *UPI* said on November 16, 1966 that should the Americans fail to bring their pacification plan into fruition, they would have to pack up and leave. It was for this reason that at the Honolulu Conference in February 1966 the United States and its lackeys put forth eight programs for the the same year namely: training of "pacification" cadres, establishment of "new life hamlets", self-reliance, education in rural areas, rural public works, agricultural development, rallying resistance members and resettlement of refugees from communist controlled areas. Supporting these programs were the "break-the-Vietcong's-backbone" plan worked out by McNamara and Westmoreland, and Johnson's promises assuring the Thieu-Ky clique that the United States would bolster them up whatever the cost and the means.

In execution of the above scheme, huge resources, a considerable quantity of bombs and shells, and Americans' lives have been squandered. Operation *Five Arrows* involving 200,000 U.S. troops and tens of thousands of puppet soldiers in hundreds of terrorist raids against the South Vietnamese people on whose villages dozens of thousands of tons of bombs were showered. For this "search and destroy" plan the invaders even used noxious chemicals and war gases lethal to human beings and harmful to vegetation. Next came thousands of wicked thugs called "pacification cadres" to extend control over the people by most barbarous means coupled with cynical deceptive tricks. A "pacification" drive still bloodier than under Ngo Dinh Diem took place last year.

What did the U.S. aggressors and their stooges gain in this brutal massacre? To bring more territory and more people under their control? Not at all. All their operations were fought off; in the very areas that they had so far regarded as their sanctuary such as Quang Tri and Thua Thien provinces, many districts and villages have been liberated, and many occupied areas narrowed down. Commented *A.P.* on January 8, 1967: the Saigon government remains a besieged regime; in rural areas, the communists operate freely and American officials have admitted that no less than ten million Vietnamese pay taxes to the Vietcong.

The building of "new life hamlets" (formerly "strategic hamlets") — another important objective — has also failed bitterly. According to official data published by the Saigon authorities, only 800 were set up in 1966 instead of 1,900 as listed. General Nguyen Duc Thang, responsible for the execution of the plan has acknowledged, "we should not attach too much importance to figures and statistics. The above mentioned result can be viewed as a nominal one as to the content (of the undertaking, Ed.), it is not a complete success" *Radio Saigon*, Jan. 2, 1967). *AP* (Jan. 8, 1967) was even more explicit: Out of the 1,200 hamlets where the communists have many supporters only a handful can be considered to be pacified. And even here there is no stable government apparatus. In the course of many "leave-the-towns" and "return-to-the-villages" campaigns, the Saigon administration sent ruffians to the countryside for "pacification" work. Michael Wall of the *Guardian* (Dec. 21, 1966) appraised these agents' activity as follows: These revolutionary development units have to leave the hamlets and spend their night in townships for security's sake. This fact alone suffices to render their words and deeds ineffectual, the correspondent added.

"Education in rural areas", "rural public works", "agricultural development", etc. are but demagogic and meaningless phrases. How can the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen "win the people's hearts and minds" when they rain bombs and shells, spray noxious chemicals and war gases to massacre thousands of innocent people, and destroy hundreds of schools, hospitals and hundreds of thousands of hectares of cropland? What result have they achieved by razing to the ground Ben Suc and many other villages in the recent Operation *Cedar Falls*? They have exasperated the hatred of the people who stand ready to avenge themselves and their compatriots. 300,000 troops put out of action including 120,000 American and satellite, and 500 million dollars spent on "pacification" work, such was also the result they scored and the lesson they learned in 1966.

In his eighth South-Vietnam inspection tour in October last year, McNamara admitted that the implementation of the "pacification" plan was too slow. As for Johnson, he did not say a bit in his State of the Union message. *AP* observed on last January 8: The history of pacification in South-Vietnam is an inventory of bankruptcy of big plans, of U.S. talented advisers' unbounded energy going in smoke. It is also the story of corrupt officials at grass-roots levels destroying what a series of paternalistic and hardly active governments in Saigon have been striving perfunctorily to achieve from above. The war to win the hearts and minds of the South-Vietnamese, *AP* continued, is the caricature of erroneous and insufficient efforts, of illusions over figures, and of artificial optimism; these sad facts have emerged from the recent past... This is only acknowledgement of part of the realities in South-Vietnam. In effect the "pacification" plan owes its failure to the military setbacks sustained by the American aggressors and their valets on this war theatre in 1966, setbacks of a strategic significance which have driven them into a position of defensive passivity. This is also a political flop leading to the desintegration of the puppet regime beginning from its lowest levels, a regime built on sand and involved in an aggravating crisis.

SOUTH VIETNAM In Brief

SAIGON POLICEMAN KILLED BY G.I.s

Western agencies reported that on Feb. 12 (4th day of Lunar New Year), a G.I. had a quarrel with a local policeman in *Victoria bar* and shot the latter dead.

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A PUPPET PLATOON LEAVES FOR HOME FOR LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

A platoon of puppet soldiers stationed at Ba Chuc (Chau Doc province) asked their commanders to observe the N.F.L. truce order so as to enable them to go home and enjoy Tet festival with their families. As the puppet commanders tried to gain time by saying that they had to report to higher level, all the soldiers of the platoon but the three puppet commanders left for home after throwing down their weapons in front of these.

●

SAIGON PRICES SOAR UP

According to an *AP* dispatch of Feb. 2, retail prices in Saigon were now 17 per cent higher than last month and 77 per cent higher than the corresponding period of 1966. Rice was 132 per cent dearer compared with last year, a figure unknown before. On Feb. 3, *UPI* said that the root cause of this price rise was that the Thieu Ky administration had no plan to import additional rice though the stocks ran as low as 60,000 tons, especially as the Tet festival was coming.

●

200,000 TONS OF GOODS UNLOADED AT SAIGON HARBOUR

According to Western agencies, the goods held up at Saigon port ran to 200,000 tons. 51 import firms received orders to suspend all import transactions for 6 months. The puppet authorities issued ineffective orders to have all imported goods unloaded within 30 days and the godowns cleared within 3 to 5 days, whereas most of the docks were handling military goods.

HANOI GREETS A SPRING...

(Continued from page 4)

stages on cars rolling around the *Lake of the Redeemed Sword* but in all city quarters many small stages are erected attracting large crowds with their vast repertoire of music and poetry. In the *Temple of Literature*, national games are in full swing, whereas in the Chi Linh and Thong Nhat squares the flowers offer a real feast for the eyes.

In the suburbs of the capital city spring is greeted with no mitigated joy. While cooking their glutinous rice cakes on the eve of the New Year's Day, the co-op farmers merrily chat with the evacuated townsfolks. Then in the drying-yards of the co-op and under the roof of the village house, traditional wrestling and swing are revived to the loud accompaniment of drums. And the winners of the bouts rejoice not only at the prizes won but also at the prospect of qualifying to be called up next time. On the Red River banks there take place hot contests of Vietnamese boxing and national defence sports...

As midnight strikes and heralds in the new year, the Hanoi people greet spring with jubilation but also with a "Determination to defeat the American aggressors" spirit.

THE U.S. ADMITS THE LOSS OF 1,800 AIRCRAFT

THE air war of destruction waged by the U.S. imperialists against North Vietnam has resulted in a great loss of aircraft and airmen for the U.S. which is meeting with energetic opposition from progressive people throughout the world.

The American authorities however constantly seek to hush up their bitter failure, Up to now, the Pentagon has officially acknowledged only the loss of 468 planes and 4 helicopters in North Vietnam and 150 planes and 251 helicopters in the South. In total they claim having lost 873 aircraft only. However this figure was denied by the American press and public opinion, as it was a far cry from the truth.

On Feb. 6, *UPI* reported that the Yankees had lost over 1,800 aircraft in combat and non-combat tasks in the Vietnam war. This figure was three times higher than any one else released by the American authorities who only mentioned the number of aircraft lost in combat duty and not in any other missions.

The above mentioned figure includes the loss of all aircraft reported to Washington by all American arms, but it is not accurate because each of these arms has its own way to classify the aircraft lost.

UPI also revealed that this number did not include reconnaisance planes and escort fighters downed over Laos and those possibly damaged over North Vietnam but known only upon their return to Thailand airbases.

It is obvious that the U.S. aggressors are unable to conceal their defeat. Many a time, McNamara said that the number of planes lost was smaller than expected. But as soon as the press published a higher figure, the Pentagon immediately produced another one. *UPI* disclosed that 873 was the highest figure put forth so far by the Pentagon but it had not released anything as high as 1,800.

An American pilot recently captured revealed that the figure of U.S. planes downed over North Vietnam carried in our papers was still smaller than the number actually lost by the U.S.

It is certain that as U.S. air raids against North Vietnam increase, the number of U.S. planes downed will rise proportionately.

Three Victorious Attacks...

(Continued from page 8)

situation, killing or wounding over 600 enemy troops (including many U.S. "advisers") and capturing hundreds of weapons.

In the waves of attacks on Chau Hung between Jan. 4 and 16, the armed forces and people of Ben Tre wiped out 1,000 enemy troops (including one battalion, 5 companies and 2 platoons completely destroyed, and one company sustaining serious losses).

The Chau Hung victory was achieved through well fought annihilation battles. In all 3 attacks, the local L.A.F. soundly beat the puppet troops, successfully smashing the enemy scheme to pacify the area and nibble to liberated zone, and in close co-ordination with the Thanh Phu battle, they contributed to the frustrating of Operation *Deckhouse V*, the first launched by the American troops against Ben Tre.

IN THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF FEBRUARY 1967 :

THE L.A.F. WON GREAT VICTORIES

● WIPED OUT 1 PUPPET REGULAR BATTALION, 35km NORTHWEST OF SAIGON (Feb. 5) ● PUT OUT OF ACTION 5 U.S. COMPANIES 30km NORTHWEST OF TAY NINH PROVINCIAL CAPITAL (Feb. 3 to 6) ● ATTACKED 4 AIRFIELDS IN THE MEKONG RIVER DELTA (Feb. 6) AND BIEN HOA AIRBASE (Feb. 7) ● WIPED OUT 1 COMPANY AND PUT OUT OF ACTION 3 OTHERS, 14km NORTH OF HUE (Feb. 4)

ACCORDING to *L.P.A.*, in the first ten days of February 1967, the L.A.F. launched repeated attacks on the periphery of Saigon and Hue cities.

Operations of the U.S. aggressors and their stooges to break the encirclement of Saigon were foiled and the L.A.F. gunfire was heard through the city.

On February 5 night, the L.A.F. stormed a puppet regular battalion on Highway 8, Duc Hoa district, 35km northwest of Saigon. After 30 minutes' fighting, the L.A.F. got complete control of the battlefield, the enemy was wiped out, the battalion command was captured, all the weapons were seized.

ON February 6, the L.A.F. wiped out almost completely one company of U.S. Infantry Brigade 199, 9km east of Saigon, according to Western reports.

ON the same night the L. A. F. assaulted 3 enemy airfields in the Mekong River delta : Can Tho and Tru Cu and Tra Noc (in Tra Vinh and Soc Trang provinces), 9 planes at Can Tho airfield were completely destroyed.

The 4th attack on the same night was launched against the *English* helicopter parking ground north of Binh Dinh.

On the following night (Feb. 7) the L.A.F. stormed Bien Hoa airfield, and burned a bomb store. *UPI* reported that about 2.500 napalm bombs were destroyed. That was the 5th L.A.F. attack on U.S. military bases in Bien Hoa province. The four previous ones had been mounted on the big logistic base in Long Binh (Oct. 28, Nov. 17, and Dec, 9, 1966 and Jan. 4, 1967). The last attack was the biggest which blew up 40 storehouses, destroyed 800,000 cannon shells stored in 40 depots, and killed or wounded over 100 Yanks.

MEANWHILE in Operation *Gadsden* northwest of Tay Ninh provincial capital, the U.S. troops were repeatedly attacked by the L. A. F. who completely destroyed 9 M.41 tanks and M.113 armoured cars and killed or wounded over 100 G.I.s on February 3 alone.

On February 4, one company coming to rescue the beleaguered troops was put out of action. On February 5, 200 enemies were wiped out, 13 tanks and armoured cars completely destroyed.

On Feb.6, another company was annihilated in a raid.

Thus, in 4 days only, the regional L.A.F. put out of action 5 U. S. companies and destroyed 22 tanks and armoured cars.

Despite repeated defeats, the U.S. aggressors violated the Lunar New year 7-day truce order of the South Vietnam N.F.L. and raided the northwest of Tay Ninh provincial capital.

On Feb. 10, the L.A.F. fought off many enemy attacks, wiped out a whole company and completely destroyed 6 tanks and armoured troop carriers.

MEANWHILE the enemy troops stationed in Quang Dien military sub-sector, 14 km north of Hue were attacked : one company was knocked out, 3 others were put out of action together with a battalion coming to their rescue ; 2 helicopters were downed, 3 M.113, set afire ; the L. A. F. encirclement of Quang Dien military sub-sector continued.

THE L.A.F. victories in the first ten days of February 1967 around Saigon and Hue cities clearly showed that all the operations conducted by the U.S. expeditionary corps in the *Iron Triangle* (Operations *Attleboro and Cedar Falls*), and in Ben Tre province (Operation *Deckhouse V*) ended in pitiful failure. No matter what troop strength the enemy may pour in to break the encirclement of the cities under the Westmoreland 3-point strategic plan, the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen will inevitably sustain still heavier defeats.

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IN THE MEKONG DELTA :

THREE VICTORIOUS ATTACKS ON CHAU HUNG POST

1,000 ENEMY SOLDIERS PUT OUT OF ACTION

CHAU HUNG, a village of Binh Dai district, 13km Northeast of the provincial capital of Ben Tre, holds a key position on the Cua Dai — Ba Lai waterway in the Mekong Delta. The enemy occupied this village to defend the road linking Ben Tre to Binh Dai and the waterway from Cua Dai — Ba Lai to Ben Tre in an attempt to realize his "pacification" plan for the occupation of the liberated zone and to pave the way for U.S. military operations against the Nam Bo delta.

To foil the enemy's pacification plot and to warn the U.S. aggressors against any foolish attempt to encroach upon the Mekong Delta, on Jan. 4 night, the local L.A.F. made a surprise attack on Chau Hung Post and destroyed it, completely wiping out 2 platoons of defenders and capturing more than 30 firearms.

At noon on Jan. 6, Ranger Battalion 32, *security forces* Company 983 and *civil guard* company 1001 were sent in to rebuild the post.

That night, the L.A.F. mounted a violent attack and razed the post to the ground for the second time, wiping out 4 puppet main force, *security forces* and *civil guard* companies, inflicting heavy losses on another company ; enemy casualties amounted to nearly 330 and large quantities of arms and military equipment were seized. About the same time, the guerillas swang into action, inflicting heavy losses on the Giong Trom military sub-sector, demolishing the puppet district administration office and information hall, and shooting 2 military vehicles and a C-47 aircraft afire.

Following these 2 serious blows and threatened with tighter encirclement on the river and land communication axes Northeast of Ben Tre provincial capital, the enemy hastily replenished Ranger Battalion 32 and moved in Security Forces company 994 for the re-occupation of Chau Hung. The post was transformed into a 1,000-metre-long defence line protected by thick mine-fields, with flares sent up all night and strict air control over the Ba Lai river. Three artillery positions of the Giong Trom military sub-sector (Ben Tre province) and of Cho Giua and Hoa Dong (Go Cong province) provided round-the-clock supporting fire to ensure safety for the puppet troops stationed there.

In preparation for another destructive blow against Chau Hung, the L.A.F. constantly harassed the enemy by encirclement and heavy shelling and compelled him to withdraw from 8 posts in 4 villages of Binh Dai district.

As a result, the 650 puppet troops assembled in Chau Hung were struck with growing fear, and many of the *civil guards* threw their weapons away and deserted. On Jan. 13 and 14, the commander of puppet Division 7, then Brig. Gen. Nguyen Van Manh, commander of the 4th Tactical Zone, had to visit the place to bolster up the morale of their men who were on tenterhooks.

On Jan. 16 night, the L.A.F. made the 3rd attack on Chau Hung. At midnight sharp, they rained mortar shells on the enemy position, turning their barracks into a sea of flames. Meanwhile, the attacking columns swarmed across mine-fields and charged the defenders in their strongholds.

Enemy aircraft on relief missions met with intense ground fire and 2 helicopters were brought down on the spot. More interceptors and jet fighters and 5 C.47's were dispatched to the scene, strafing the area and dropping flares. The L.A.F. continued to engage the enemy ground troops in hand-to-hand fighting while keeping off the enemy aircraft with their enfilading fire. Enemy artillery failed to provide support. The artillery position in the Giong Trom military sub-sector, 8km from Chau Hung, was hit by the L.A.F. heavy gun fire and destroyed from the very first minutes. Another artillery position in Cho Giua, also 8km from Chau Hung, was silenced after having fired 11 rounds at random. Supporting artillery fire from Hoa Dong (Go Cong province) hit its own troops.

The L.A.F. kept fighting the enemy in close quarters, and cut the combat formations of puppet Ranger Battalion 32 to pieces, broke through its fortifications, pursued the fleeing troops and wiped them out to the last man. Their commanders, dug in to offer continued resistance, were finally wiped out by the L.A.F. artillery fire.

After 2 hours' fighting, the L.A.F. fully controlled the

(*Continued page 7*)

U.S. and Puppet Troops Repeatedly Violate N.F.L.'s Truce Order

ACCORDING to preliminary reports, the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen in South Vietnam have repeatedly broken the Lunar New Year truce order of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation.

Ten violations were recorded in **Thua Thien** province between early Feb. 8 and noon 10, when the U.S. aggressors landed a ranger company on Hoa My village, Phong Dien district for a raid. The enemies were intercepted by the guerillas, and had 6 dead and many wounded.

In **Tan An** and Cho Lon provinces, on Feb. 8 and 9 many F.100 and F.105 planes harassed Duc Hoa and Duc Hue airspace and a battalion of U.S. Infantry Division 25 raided Loc Giang and An Ninh villages of Duc Hoa district. The raiders were intercepted by the Liberation armed forces.

In **Thu Dau Mot** province, the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys violated the truce order 16 times. In Ben Cat district particularly at 4 p.m. on Feb. 8, enemy troops were helilifted to an area 5km northeast of Ben Suc in an attempt to prevent the people from celebrating the Lunar New Year festival. The regional armed forces and guerillas fought off the enemy who was forced to withdraw at 6 p.m.

In **Tay Ninh** province, the U.S. troops on 22 occasions violated the truce order. Enemy planes circled many times over the liberated areas of the province and machinegunned hamlets in An Tinh village, Trang Bang district, and many parts of Chau Thanh district. in Soc Thiet, Ba Diec, Giua hamlet, Lo Go and other areas, U.S. troops mounted many attacks.

In **Bien Hoa** province, the U.S. aggressors violated the truce order 9 times. From Tan Uyen district capital they wantonly shelled the surrounding areas.

In **Ba Ria** and **Long Khanh** provinces, 8 breaches were recorded.

Early on Feb. 12, the U.S. and puppet troops attacked a locality near Saigon. U.S. planes dropped bombs right at the gate of the city (*UPI*).

Also on Feb. 12, B.52 planes bombed an area 20km northwest of Bong Son, **Binh Dinh** province.

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